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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,082	11/19/2003	Huiyan Guo	37565-508001US	1853
64046	7590	04/20/2009	EXAMINER	
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY AND POPEO, P.C.			SIEFKI, SAMUEL P	
ONE FINANCIAL CENTER			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/717,082	Applicant(s) GUO ET AL.
	Examiner SAM P. SIEFKE	Art Unit 1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2009.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3, 9-38 and 48-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3, 9-38 and 48-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicant recites a sample application well, a separate sample expression and division means. The specification, "The body 110 further comprises a sample application well 210 (which in figure 2 comprises the sample expression means 300 represented by reference 214), a sample expression means 300 (214 in figure 2), a sample divider 310, for dividing the sample into two portions, and a reservoir 260. The sample application well 210 is in fluid communication with the sample expression means 300. The sample expression means 300 is in fluid communication with the sample divider 310 that directs sample into two or more separate compartments, such as to the reservoir 260 and to the test strip." It is new matter to state a "separate" sample expression and division means when the are physically connected to each other and in fluid communication with each other. Further

the sample application well 210 comprises the sample expression means 300 as seen in figure 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 9-38 and 48-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bachand et al. (USPN 6,489,172).

Bachand discloses a saliva sampling device that comprises an absorbent sample applicator (fig. 5, 17, including a handle), a casing (48), a sample application well 14 which includes an expresser 12 connected to the casing, a sample divider (82) for dividing the sample into a first portion (88) to be tested and a second portion (89) to be stored, a sample reservoir (78) in fluid communication with the sample divider, a test strip (fig. 1, 58,62) with the casing for testing a sample. The absorbent member can be a sponge or foam (col. 3, lines 1-30). The handle of the applicator includes a textured grip 34. The casing further comprises a top portion (near the sample application well) and a bottom portion (fig. 1 near reference 52). The top portion of the casing includes a

reservoir attachment means (fig. 3, col. 4, lines 13-16). The reservoir includes a tamper evident closure cap 81 for sealing the confirmation container 78 after it has been removed from the platform 48 which is made of plastic material. The top portion further comprises a sample application well base (12) and further comprises the sample divider which is in fluid communication with the reservoir and at least one test strip. The top portion comprises an aperture (60) for viewing the test strip. The test strip is supported in a space defined by the interior surface of the top portion and the interior surfaces of the bottom portions. The sample application well further comprises an expressor for expressing the sample from the sample applicator upon the absorbent member being manually pressed into the expressor (col. 3, lines 1-30). Regarding the amendment to claim 1 requiring the top member and a bottom member being removably coupled to one another, the casing comprises a top portion (near the sample application well) and a bottom portion (fig. 1 near reference 52) and also seen in figure 3 (top 42 and bottom 52). The Examiner states that until the Applicant positively recites a structure that provides the top member and bottom member structures to be removably coupled to each other (i.e. retaining clips or pins) then the Bachand is structurally capable of the top and bottom members being removably coupled to each other because if a large force was applied to the top and bottom members they would separate from each other because they are in fact two separate pieces when the device is being put together so as to be able to place the test strip in the well for testing. Regarding the recent amendments to claims 37 and 38 requiring both a sample application well and an expressor, the Examiner points to figure 3 which shows a sample application well 14

which includes an expresser 12 connected to the casing, a sample divider (82) for dividing the sample into a first portion (88) to be tested and a second portion (89) to be stored. The sample application well, sample expression and division means are in the same structural configuration as the instant claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/29/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues, "Applicants contend that Bachand does not anticipate the rejected claims because Bachand does not teach a casing having a top member and a bottom member, wherein the top and bottom members are removably coupled to one another. Bachand does not teach this element because at most Bachand discloses a housing and at no point in time does Bachand teach that the housing is composed of two members capable of being removably coupled to one another." Regarding the amendment to claim 1 requiring the top member and a bottom member being removably coupled to one another, the casing comprises a top portion (near the sample application well) and a bottom portion (fig. 1 near reference 52) and also seen in figure 3 (top 42 and bottom 52). The Examiner states that until the Applicant positively recites a structure that provides the top member and bottom member structures to be removably coupled to each other (i.e. retaining clips or pins) then the Bachand is structurally capable of the top and bottom members being removably coupled to each other because if a large force was applied to the top and bottom members they would

separate from each other because they are in fact two separate pieces when the device is being put together so as to be able to place the test strip in the well for testing.

Applicant argues, "With respect to claims 23 and 31, each of these claims have been amended to clarify hat the device includes both a sample application well and an expressor. The Office has not shown where in Bachand a device is taught which device includes both a sample application well and an expressor. Accordingly, Banchand does not teach all the elements of the rejected claims and therefore does not anticipate the claimed invention." The Examiner assumes the Applicant is arguing claims 37 and 38 since these claims require a sample application well and an expresser means. As seen in the new matter rejection, it is new matter to state a "separate" sample expression and division means when the are physically connected to each other and in fluid communication with each other. Further the sample application well 210 comprises the sample expression means 300 as seen in figure 7. Further in the specification, The body 110 further comprises a sample application well 210 (which in figure 2 comprises the sample expression means 300 represented by reference 214), a sample expression means 300 (214 in figure 2), a sample divider 310, for dividing the sample into two portions, and a reservoir 260. The sample application well 210 is in fluid communication with the sample expression means 300. The sample expression means 300 is in fluid communication with the sample divider 310 that directs sample into two or more separate compartments, such as to the reservoir 260 and to the test strip. The sample application well contains the expresser means.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAM P. SIEFKE whose telephone number is (571)272-1262. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on 571-272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Samuel P Siefke/
Examiner, Art Unit 1797